Government considers only those proposals for diversion of forest land under this Act which are recommended by the State/UT Governments.

Appointment of Public prosecutor for pending wildlife cases

1328. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 200 cases registered under Wildlife (Protection) Act are pending in courts in the Capital and there are no public prosecutors to handle those cases;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the public prosecutors are likely to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) As per report received from Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, 172 wildlife cases are pending trial in designated Wildlife Courts in the capital. An Additional Public Prosecutor for the State has been provided by the Directorate of Prosecution, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi to handle the cases.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Poaching of black bucks

†1329. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether poaching of black bucks in the forest area of Jhajjhar in Haryana has become common feature; if so, the number of incidents of poaching during the last three years and the number of bucks killed;

(b) the number of persons arrested red-handed for poaching of black bucks in Jhajjhar area and the action taken against them; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government are going to take some stringent measures for the protection of black buck species; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. As reported by the State Government no poaching of black bucks in the forest area of Jhajjhar district has been reported prior to the poaching incident dated 3rd June, 2005.

(b) Eight persons have been arrested for poaching in Jhajjhar district and FIR has been registered against them.

(c) Yes, Sir. The following measures have been taken to protect the black bucks:

1. Black buck is included in the Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby giving it highest protection. Hunting of black bucks is prohibited under the provisions of the Act.

2. Necessary technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Government for conservation and development of habitats of black bucks under Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries".

3. State Government also has taken adequate measures for the protection of black bucks.

Construction of stone statue of Buddha in Karnataka

1330. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Eco-activists and local people are up in arms against the proposed construction of the world's tallest stone statue of Buddha on a rock face at Ramanagaram region in Karnataka;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that the proposed project is likely to destroy a large portion of natural rock formations and eat into forest land as also the construction work will adversely affect the already shrinking habitat of several rare bird species as well as the endangered sloth bear; and